

January 16, 2017

Attn: Members of Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Re: Governor's Bill #7051 specific to (6) [Council on Environmental Quality, established under section 22a-11] Repealed pursuant to section 31 of this act; and

Dear Committee Members:

it is with deep consternation that I question and oppose the proposed Bill #7051, Sec 22a11 relative to repeal of the Statute enabling the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). It bears reminding that the CEQ was founded in 1971 (nearly ½ century ago). Its charge has been to do three things;

1. Assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor, and recommend actions to improve state environmental programs.
2. Advise other state agencies on environmental impacts of proposed construction projects. Investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.
3. AND under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act the Council on Environmental Quality reviews Environmental Impact Evaluations that state agencies develop for major projects. Plus publishing of the Environmental Monitor.

All of this accomplished by 9 members comprised of 7 volunteers and 2 staff people. The citizens of CT receive this high caliber professional commitment, hard work, and service for \$174,000 a year. Amazing!

The people of CT need and deserve the oversight provided by CEQ more today than ever before. This is a critical time for independent studies and research on issues that affect the Environment and ultimately the cost to Connecticut taxpayers. With the looming aspect of cuts to EPA, with CT DEEP having been reduced in staff and operating budget; CEQ is most relevant and necessary as an added voice responsive to the needs of towns and its citizens.

I respectfully ask that this Committee reject the proposal to repeal CEQ and that in doing so, the Committee recognize the importance and value of CEQ to CT and its citizens in meeting the challenges in the days to come. Thank you.

Cordially,

Ann Beaudin

1009 Poquonock Avenue

Windsor, CT 06095